

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10

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O R 111520Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4533

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S MID EAST VISIT

SUMMARY: ISRAELI PRESS ASSESSMENT OF SECRETARY'S LATEST
MID EAST TRIP STRESSES THAT OBJECTIVES WERE MODERATE AND
LIMITED, WITH PRIMARY FOCUS BEING EFFORT TO KEEP NEGOTIATING
MOMENTUM ALIVE. PRESS ANTICIPATES
RETURN OF SECRETARY IN DECEMBER, (BEFORE BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO CAIRO)
AND THAT NEXT VISIT WILL FOCUS ON WORKING OUT AGREEMENT FOR
STARTING SECOND ROUND OF EGYPTIAN- ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN REVIEWING SECRETARY'S NINTH VISIT TO ISRAEL SINCE OCTOBER
WAR, ISRAELI PRESS, ON BASIS OF GOVT BACKGROUNDERS AND
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INFO MINISTER YARIV'S PRESS CONF AND TV

INTERVIEW, HAVE CONCLUDED THAT MAIN RESULTS WERE: A) GOI-USG ASSESSMENT OF POST-RABAT POLITICAL SITUATION, B) EXAMINATION OF POSSIBILITIES FOR BEGINNING SECOND STAGE OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, AND C) REASSURANCES ON EXISTING US POLICY RE PLO.

2. ISRAELI PRESS HAS NOTED THAT SECRETARY'S OBJECTIVES WERE "LIMITED AND MODERATE", WITH PRIME CONCERN BEING TO PREVENT DIPLOMATIC DEADLOCK. WHILE SECRETARY'S PREVIOUS VISIT TO MIDEAST HAD BEEN INTENDED TO PREVENT RABAT SUMMIT FROM CONSTITUTING INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE, LATEST ROUND WAS CONCERNED WITH SURMOUNTING OBSTACLE WHICH RABAT HAD CREATED. VISIT SUCCEEDED INsofar AS US MEDIATION EFFORT IS STILL ALIVE.

3. EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. ISRAELIS BELIEVE THAT ONLY NEGOTIATING OPTION AT PRESENT JUNCTURE IS SECOND ROUND OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS RE FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI. YARIV TOLD PRESS THAT US-ISRAELI DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE ONLY GENERAL IN NATURE AND THAT NO DECISION RE MODALITIES, TIMING OR CONTENT OF NEXT ROUND WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL SECRETARY'S NEXT VISIT -- EXPECTED SOMETIME IN DECEMBER, AND IN ANY CASE BEFORE BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO CAIRO IN JANUARY. HAARETZ (GOLAN) BELIEVES THAT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS WILL BEGIN AT END OF DECEMBER AT EARLIEST, PROBABLY IN WASHINGTON. IN MEANTIME, ISRAELIS BELIEVE, SECRETARY'S EFFORTS WILL BE DEVOTED TO PREVENTING OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES, EITHER ACCIDENTALLY OR OTHERWISE, BY KEEPING PARTIES ENGAGED IN PREPARATORY TALKS.

4. EVEN AS REGARDS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, ISRAELIS ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC. DAVAR NOTES EDITORIALY THAT " THERE IS AN ABSYMAL GAP NOT ONLY BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN DEMANDS, BUT ALSO BETWEEN THE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND NON-BELLIGERENCY FOR WHICH ISRAEL IS HOLDING OUT AND THE MILITARY AGREEMENT SADAT IS PREPARED TO CONDEDE."

5. JORDAN: ISRAELIS CONCLUDE AFTER LATEST VISIT THAT SECRETARY AGREES WITH GOI THAT FOR TIME BEING JORDAN IS NOT ACTIVE NEGOTIATING PARTNER RE FUTURE OF WEST BANK AND GAZA. NEGOTIATIONS RE ISRAEL'S EASTERN FRONTIER APPEAR TO BE STALLED INDEFINITELY.

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6. US POLICY TO PLO. YARIV TOLD ISRAELIS THAT SECRETARY INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN US POLICY RE PLO AND THAT USG WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PRESSURING GOI TO RE-CONSIDER ITS POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. ISRAELI PRESS HAD ALSO CARRIED DENIALS FROM WASHINGTON RE CONTENT OF DEPASSTSEC SOBER'S CONVERSATION ON SUBJECT WITH LIKUD MK OLLMERT. AT SAME TIME, ISRAELI PRESS CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS UNRESOLVED CONTRADICTION BETWEEN SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS IN JERUSALEM AND PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE.

7. SYRIA: ISRAELI PRESS HAS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION REPORTED US ESTIMATES THAT SYRIA PROBABLY WILL AGREE TO RENEWAL OF UNDOF MANDATE. BUT ISRAELIS BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE NO DIPLOMATIC MOVEMENT WITH SYRIA FOR TIME BEING, GIVEN SYRIA'S POSITION THAT NEXT STAGE HINGES ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS AND INCLUSION OF PLO IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS AT GENEVA.

8. THERE APPEARS TO BE CONSENSUS IN ISRAELI PRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING NEGOTIATING MOMENTUM ALIVE, AND MANY NEWSMEN REGARD SECRETARY'S REGULAR VISITS TO AREA AS INDISPENSABLE AT THIS STAGE. NEVERTHELESS, PRESS CONTINUES TO WARN THAT-- IN WAKE OF RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE -- PROSPECTS OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN FIRST HALF OF 1975 HAVE INCREASED.

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